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Summary

The 31st SmallSat Conference, hosted by The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and Utah State University (USU), was held in Logan, Utah, USA from August 5th to 10th, 2017. "BIG DATA" was the main theme at this event. According to organizers, approximately 2,500 people attended, which is more than last year's conference. Exhibitions were provided by 189

companies and organizations - more than last year, and required the addition of a second exhibition hall.

Nearly 100 participants were from Japan. Japan's METI (The Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry) provided exhibitions regarding Japanese industry activity, with 17 companies and organizations providing presentations and 5 companies had their own exhibitions.



Our Impressions

Most participants at this conference represented companies and organizations that deal with the manufacturing and construction of SmallSats. Major players, such as Pumpkin, GomSpace, and Tyvak, have been engaged in the standardization of SmallSats through the establishment of their own production models. Exhibitions and technical presentations at this event demonstrated not only satellite systems, but also sub-systems and components, providing excellent opportunities for attendees to find out about recent status and future trends. However, it was hard to determine what extent the small satellite manufacturing boom might expand. I feel that the manufacturers of small satellites have not yet reached consensus regarding the "Make/buy" of sub-systems and components, nor established their own supply chains.

"BIG DATA" was the main theme of the event, and presentations and exhibitions followed suit in respect to small satellites. However, it mainly items that come from seed sides that were presented. In respect to the need side, there was only a presentation from the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The NGA is a data user for national security. Planet was the only satellite operator that gave a presentation at this conference. This all led me to believe that the event was mainly carried out by those that manufacture and construct satellites.

Some business subjects were covered during panel discussions and presentations; however, business models did not appear to be well-established. The difficulties of the discussion might be came from the mixed discussions between operators, satellite system manufactures, sub-system manufactures, and components manufactures. Discussion should have focused on satellites that weight between 100 and 200 k.g., however, CubeSat systems and related components generally appeared in the exhibitions. I could not find a clear link between business and technology yet.

Presentations

(1) Keynote Speech

<Omitted below>

(2) Business and Finance Panel

<Omitted below>

(3) BIG DATA

<Omitted below>

(4) Ground stations and Satellite Operations

<Omitted below>

(5) Launches

<Omitted below>

Other Miscellaneous Comments

I've sent a number of these reports to subscribers up to now, and some of them have mentioned that they look forward to reading the comments in this part, about dining and cuisine. Unfortunately, the food in Logan, Utah, tended to be uninspiring. I would generally pick up ordinary dishes at a nearby deli, to be eaten at my hotel room. One bright spot was the lunches provided at the conference. If you line up at a large tent outside, chefs will carve roast beef and turkey

for you, and you can also ask for a second helping.



Unless a sudden storm appears, you can enjoy watching shiny grass under the hot sun while you eat.



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